

# Weekly Views

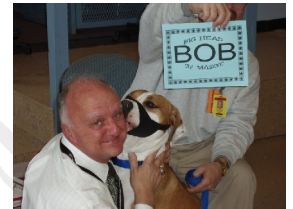
Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained." ~ Marie Curie*

*Friday, January 30, 2009*

This week, Commissioner Buss announced the appointments of Bryan Pearson as Superintendent of Edinburgh Correctional Facility, Beckie Bennett as Superintendent of Reception Diagnostic Center, and Steve McCauley as Superintendent of the Indiana Women's Prison. Congratulations to each of them as they begin their new positions!

The FIDO program at the Correctional Industrial Facility held a meet and greet event where 14 dogs and handlers attended and numerous visitors and employees dropped by. Superintendent Hanlon visited the event and was welcomed by CIF mascot, Big-Headed Bob.



Sgt. McIntyre of the Indianapolis Men's Community Re-entry Center arranged a work crew of 8 offenders to remove snow around the Government Center and Statehouse. Approximately 45 offenders from IMCRC have participated in snow removal work crews over the past few days.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted education and vocation graduations this week. 32 offenders received literacy certificates, and 20 received GEDs. Also, 20 offenders received Business Computer Application certificates, 8 received Culinary Arts certificates, 5 received Horticulture certificates, and 20 completed Master Student to Master Employee.

IDOC Community Corrections and the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives met with Clark County and Elkhart County Community Corrections to discuss the implementation of the 2007 Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative Federal grant. Through this grant, counties will provide services to IDOC prisoners being held in the county jails.

Through a partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation, 5 residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility assisted with snow removal this week. The residents' assignment to this crew is considered a working test period, during which time supervisors evaluate their skills. Upon release, INDOT has the opportunity to hire these residents as full-time state employees.

In response to a "Cry for Help" from the local news, the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program offenders made 67 quilts, pillows, and carrying bags and donated them to the Wheeler Mission.

Ball State University sent transcripts and letters of certification of graduation for 49 students at Miami Correctional Facility. Of those, 39 men earned Associate of Arts degrees, and 10 men earned Bachelor of General Studies degrees.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its 3<sup>rd</sup> PLUS Unit graduation ceremony. 16 offenders were recognized for successfully completing the character and faith-based program and were presented with certificates.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Staff Assembly, recognizing Classification Specialist Stacey Miller as Employee of the Quarter and Education Supervisor Evelyn Hicks as Supervisor of the Quarter. Retirees and recipients of Cash Spot Bonuses, Years of Service letters and pins, and challenge coins were also recognized.

Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit's Community Assistance Crew assisted the Michigan City women's shelter with domestic organization, moving furniture, and routine building maintenance.

Reception-Diagnostic Center employee Bob Shuler retired this week after 42 years with the Department. Bob was presented with an Indiana flag that has flown over the State Capital and a Proclamation establishing him as a Distinguished Hoosier by Governor Daniels. Congratulations!!

Several of Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility's students' paintings selected for the "Mockingbird: Art Stories" travelling display promoting Indiana Repertory Theatre's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* received numerous and positive feedback. The display will be at several venues around the city throughout the duration of the play's showing.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its quarterly Staff Recall discussing current and upcoming changes in facility operations. Approximately 90 staff attended, and 10 employees received door prizes.

Over 400 offenders at Westville were interviewed and completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Purdue University representatives were on location to answer questions and provide assistance to interested offenders.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner